

Draft

MEETING NOTES **Social and Economic Impact Study Committee Meeting** **4-27-07**

Attendees:

See attached sign-in sheet.

1. Welcome and introductions

Chair Linda Dorn welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

2. Announcements

Jim Martin announced that at the next meeting of the Central Valley Salinity Policy Group Steering Committee, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Officer Pamela Creedon will present the Board's policy perspective on salinity. The meeting will be scheduled in early June. Dan Cozad mentioned that the Board is working on a guidance document intended to increase consistency in the Board's approach to regulating salinity.

Jim Martin reported that there has been outreach to representatives of other interests to offer the opportunity to participate in the Committee. The Great Valley Center has declined the offer because of workload. Other organizations, including Western United Dairymen and California Dairies, Inc. will participate in the Committee in future.

3. Status Report on the UCD contract work

Richard Howitt reminded the Committee that the purpose of the study is to project economic impacts to 2030 if salinity controls and reduction are limited to existing regulations and programs. An agricultural crop model has been set up to analyze the impacts of salinity on crops. The current work effort is to integrate the Bureau of Reclamation's projections of perched saline groundwater.

Doug Larson is leading the effort to model non-market values and costs imposed on residents that are not reflected in the market analyses. A number of focus groups have already been convened and the first round of surveys will be sent out soon. Linda Dorn suggested that the survey questions be shared with the Committee, and the group agreed it would be useful to have Dr. Larson come to the next meeting to discuss the study.

Jerry Horner provided a summary of the Regional Income and Employment Impact model. He noted that because GIS is being used, REMI can be "layered"

Draft

with the BOR projections regarding saline groundwater. He also pointed out that the assumptions used in the model will be held constant but it is not essential that they be “correct.” Rob Neenan noted that while there may be only a few food processors, they purchase a lot of produce and are often located in very small towns where they are critical to the local economy. Linda Dorn commented that current Central Valley permitting processes are in flux and vary significantly. The Committee suggested that perhaps rather than looking at existing permit requirements, it might be more appropriate to look at per capita water use, the salt levels in source water, and apply a factor to approximate the salt loadings from public wastewater plants. Dan Cozad noted that this may also change, as salts are becoming more concentrated as water conservation increases.

While it is not possible to include all variables—such as climate change—in the model, it will be possible to show how some of the factors will influence the predictions. Jim Martin pointed out that it is important that the model be able to be adapted to support future efforts—this study is only the initial phase.

The Committee discussed the assumptions about retiring land in agricultural production and the impact of those decisions on local economies. It was noted that while land may remain in agricultural use, farmers may switch to more salinity tolerant lower value crops.

Changes in assumptions can be made up until June; suggestions and comments should be e-mailed as soon as possible to Jerry Horner:

jhorner@waterboards.ca.gov

4. Potential Funding Needs and Sources

Jim Martin discussed briefly the need to define future tasks for the project and identify funding sources to complete the next phase of work. It was noted that sensitivity analyses might be a future task.

5. Action Items

- Research Team to distribute questions for non-market survey
- Committee members to provide comments on assumptions
- J.Horner to provide bullet points on the urbanization assumptions similar to those provided for the agricultural study
- E-mail websites for the various models (REMI, SWAP, Calvin)

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cal EPA building 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft

Sign in/Attendance List

Name	Affiliation	Phone	email
Linda Dorn	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	916-876-6030	dornl@saccounty.net
Gerald Horner	State Water Resources Control Board	916-341-5279	ghorner@waterboards.ca.gov
Richard Howitt	U.C. Davis	530-752-1521	howitt@primal.ucdavis.edu
Jane Hughes Turnbull	League of Women Voters of California		jaturnbu@ix.netcom.com
Richard Hunn	ESA	916-669-4723	rhunn@esassoc.com
Bobbi Larson	Somach, Simmons & Dunn	916-446-7979 X307	blarson@lawssd.com
Jim Martin	CV Regional Water Quality Control Board	916-464-4685	jmartin@waterboards.ca.gov
Ryan McCarthy	Water Education Foundation	916-444-6240	rmccarthy@watereducation.org
Rob Neenan	California League of Food Processors		rob@clfp.com
Daniel Cozad	Integrated Planning and Management	909-793-8498	dcozad@intpln.com
Al Vargas	California Dept. of Food and Ag	916-651-0444	avargas@cdfa.ca.gov
Gail Cismowski	Central Valley Waterboard	916-464-4608	gcismowski@waterboards.ca.gov